

Application Serial Number: 10/069,520

REMARKS

Claims 1-8, 10-12, and 14 remain pending in the above-identified application. Claims 2, 10, and 14 are amended, and claims 9 and 13 are canceled. No claims are added. The specification and the abstract are amended.

The Office Action indicates that a more descriptive title of the invention is desired. As shown above, applicants amend the title to make it more descriptive.

The abstract of the disclosure stands objected to, and a reference to MPEP § 608.01(b) is provided as support for the objection. The Office Action elaborates that the introductory phrase "The present invention" is prohibited legal phraseology.

Applicants respectfully disagree. Although MPEP § 608.01(b) indicates that "means" and "said" are examples of legal phraseology, "The present invention" is more general English and accordingly is not simply legal phraseology. Applicants acknowledge that MPEP § 608.01(b) also states that phrases such as "This disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," and "This disclosure describes," *should* (not "must") be avoided. However, applicants' phrase "The present invention" differs from the exemplary phrases, because applicants' phrase refers to the invention instead of to the disclosure of the invention.

Accordingly, applicants request the withdrawal of the objection to the abstract of the disclosure, because the present wording does not contravene MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claims 1-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. Applicants remark as follows:

Regarding claim 1, the Office Action states that it is unclear what "select means" represents. However, claim 1 recites "*select means* for outputting a select signal for selecting

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said sensor elements" (*emphasis added*), and this recitation has corresponding support in the specification. For example, note page 10, in lines 4-5, which discusses:

... a timing generating section 15 for generating a select signal for selecting the sensor element lines 12b ...

(Obviously, a sensor element may be selected by selecting the corresponding sensor element line 12b.) The Office Action does not provide any explanation of why, in view of this exemplary support in the specification, the term "select means" could be unclear. The Office Action also queries if a "select means" is shown in the drawings, but it should be clear that Fig. 5 shows timing generator section 15 as an example.

Accordingly, applicants submit that the term "select means" is used in claim 1 in a sufficiently definite manner to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Applicants amend claim 2, thereby rendering moot the issue of antecedent basis for the "sensor electrodes."

Also in reference to claim 2, the Office Action indicates that it is unclear what "sensor electrodes" represent, and the Office Action queries if they are shown in the drawings. In response, applicants reference the specification, for example, page 6, in lines 11-12, which teaches that inspection unit 1 has a MOSFET as a sensor element, and Figure 6 provides a detailed diagram of such a sensor element (page 4, lines 27-28). Beginning at page 11, line 19, the specification explains that a diffusion layer with a larger surface area serves as a passive device, which is formed continuously with the source of the MOSFET. Therefore, the "sensor electrode" recited in claim 2 can be part of the source of MOSFET 12a shown in Fig. 6.

In view of this explanation, applicants respectfully submit that the term "sensor electrodes" is used in claim 2 in a sufficiently definite manner to comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

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Claim 9 is canceled, as shown above, so the issue of whether a "charge transfer device" is shown in the drawings is now moot. (Because claim 9 is canceled, claim 10 is amended to depend directly from claim 1.)

Regarding claim 10, the Office Action indicates that it is unclear what a "charge-supply MOSFET" represents. However, 35 U.S.C. § 112 does not require that applicants define terms *in the claims* if such terms are clear to a person skilled in the art *in view of the specification*. Note that the specification teaches on page 21, beginning at line 6, that, for a stable charge transfer, a charge-supply MOSFET may be provided for supplying a charge to the passive device in response to the potential variation in the liquid crystal electrode. A potential barrier is formed so as not to cause backflow of the supplied charge before completing the potential variation in the liquid crystal electrode. A drain of this charge-supply MOSFET may be formed continuously with the diffusion layer serving as the passive device. After reading this teaching in the specification, a person skilled in the art would understand what a "charge-supply MOSFET" represents.

Claim 13 is canceled, as shown above, so the issue of whether a "shading means" is shown in the drawings is now moot.

Applicants amend the claim 14 as shown above, thereby removing the basis for its rejection.

In view of the amendments and the remarks above, applicants now request the withdrawal of the indefiniteness rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, and 14.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) as not showing every feature specified in the claims. The Office Action specifically references elements in claim 9 and 13.

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As discussed above, the claims are canceled, so applicants now request the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

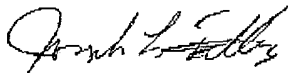
Lastly, applicants amend the specification to address informalities.

In view of the remarks above, applicants now submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowability is hereby requested. If for any reason it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension, or any other fees which may be due, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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